

Presidential Farewell

by Mark K. Vincent



Mark K. Vincent is a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Utah.

Dear FBA Members:

It has truly been my honor to represent the Federal Bar Association this past year as your national president. Thank you for your sustained support as we have worked together to improve the federal practice of law in the United States.

I am pleased to report that our membership continues to grow at an unprecedented rate. By the time we meet for the 2016 Annual Meeting and Convention in Cleveland, it is projected that we will be close to 19,000 members strong. This is a gain of approximately 1,500 new members during the past year. Additionally, by the end of the fiscal year we expect to have an FBA Chapter in every state except one or two (and we are in the process of organizing those chapters).

As an association, we continue to strengthen our relations with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AO). The FBA executive leadership is pleased to be invited to meet with the AO director on a regular basis to discuss how the FBA can support the courts and improve the practice of federal law. We are excited to partner with the AO in introducing legal civics to our local communities and schools. You will find links on the FBA website to AO-created civics programs that our FBA chapters, sections, and divisions may use with their local federal judiciary in promoting legal civics via our FBA Community Outreach initiative.

Our FBA chapters, sections, and divisions continue to sponsor outstanding CLE programming for FBA members and the general legal community. For example, in April the Indian Law Section hosted an excellent CLE conference with record-setting attendance at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz. The Eastern District of New York (EDNY) Chapter hosted their Passing of the Torch ceremony wherein Chief Judge Carol Bagley Amon passed the chief judge's torch to Judge Dora L. Irizarry. The Passing of the Torch event even featured a video presentation by U.S. Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch (former EDNY U.S. attorney). The FBA also sponsored its exceptional Women in the Law conference in New Orleans, which featured panel presentations by prominent company general counsels, four federal district court judges, and a presentation by the Eastern District of Louisiana U.S. Attorney Kenneth A. Polite who was joined by a

survivor of sex trafficking who shared her inspirational escape story. In May, our FBA Immigration Section hosted an outstanding Immigration Conference with record-setting attendance in New Orleans. The FBA's Capitol Hill Day was very successful and had approximately 60 FBA members meeting with their respective congressional delegations and presenting support for the FBA Government Relations Committee's priorities. The FBA also hosted its annual Leadership Training in Washington, D.C. This training invites all of the incoming leadership and instructs them in being successful FBA leaders.

In June, the board of directors held its quarterly board meeting in Baltimore at the law firm Brown Goldstein Levy. Afterward, the Maryland Chapter graciously hosted a dinner for the board and local members at a Baltimore Orioles baseball game. Also in June, our FBA Younger Lawyers Division sponsored a swearing-in ceremony event at the U.S. Supreme Court. Afterward, Justice Ginsberg personally visited us at our reception and shared some of her thoughts about the Court. In August the Alaska Chapter hosted their Third Annual Federal Bar Conference. This was a wonderful conference with prominent speakers who spoke on cutting-edge issues.

I, again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity to serve as national president of the FBA. It has truly been an honor and highlight for me. Please know that I recognize that the success of the FBA is premised upon the strength of its members and the dedication and exceptional work of our FBA national staff. As I move to the ranks of the past presidents, I pass the presidential baton to my dear friend and colleague, U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael J. Newman. I know that the FBA will continue to be in good hands. As members of this great association, I hope that our paths will continue to cross and that together we'll improve the federal practice of law in the United States. Thank you! ☺